

ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION NEWS

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P.O. BOX 1419 NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 02840

Winter, 1991-92 No. 14

GOOSEY LOOSEY
SAYS ITS TIME
AGAIN FOR OUR
NEW YEAR'S DAY
POT-LUCK PICNIC
ON ROSE ISLAND



11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday, January 1, 1992

No fees, no reservations and no previous experience required for this wonderful day at the lighthouse on Rose Island. Anyone who dresses warmly and brings a dish to share can join in the fun.

HOW TO GET THERE: Pack up your food and family and be at the Goat Island Marina gas dock by 11:00 AM to catch an Oldport Launch. We'll return around 2:00-3:00 PM.

WHAT TO BRING: Hot dogs & beans, stews, soups and casseroles are great, plus hot cider, cocoa and whatever else you want to drink. (We'll have plates and utensils, but if you bring your own, there will be less to throw away.)

HOW TO HELP: While your food is warming on the fire, you can work up an appetite helping us clean up the beaches. Because we're working with the State for a long-term solution to marine pollution, we log in every piece of trash. Pick up an OSCAR bag and a survey card before you head out.

It's a great way to ring in the New Year, but depending on the weather we play this whole thing by ear! There's no rain date because Thursday is a work day. If you're unsure about the weather or need more information, call Charlotte at 847-4454.

PAT ON THE BACK FROM RIHPC - Just as R.I. Historical Preservation Commission (RIHPC) architects Ginger Hesse and Don Faxon were finishing up their site visit on a beautiful day in July, what should round the bend at Castle Hill and pass Rose Island lighthouse, but the 169' three-masted, square-rigged ship H.M.S. BOUNTY! How impressive can you get? What a thrill!



Of course, we're sure Ginger wasn't the least bit influenced when she reported the following to the RIHPC: "It is especially gratifying to see the project so far along. The excellent results are due to the dedicated group of people involved with the project who have not lost enthusiasm despite innumerable obstacles. I wish that we could put this same group to work on other projects around the state!"

We're grateful for the pat on the back, Ginger, but as you can see for yourself, after visiting the lighthouse, you just can't stop smiling, even if you tried!





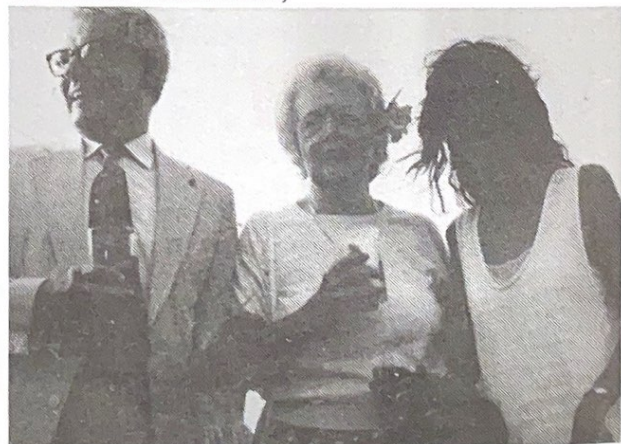
H.M.S. BOUNTY VISIT - Our hearts were warmed and our coffers increased as a result of the generosity and good will of the following people and organizations who helped with our party and/or public tours held in July. Special thanks go to:

- ♥ Dabney Mann, Elaine Powell and Bunky Helfrich of Turner Broadcasting, who donated the use of BOUNTY and her crew
- ♥ Captain Joseph M. Davis, Jr. and the rest of BOUNTY's entertaining and hard-working crew (Both the 18th and 20th century ones!)
- ♥ George Crowninshield and the Goat Island Marina for BOUNTY's free berth for our Polynesian party on July 17
- ♥ Commodore Arthur Richardson, the Newport Yacht Club and their great staff for BOUNTY's free berth for the tours from July 19-22
- ♥ Lynne Bryer, designer and coordinator of food and table settings for the party
- ♥ Food and flower preparers: Margaret Baker, Barbara Carroll, Theo Duncan, Annelisa Gee, Jan Hall, Mark Hefflin, Frances Hester (who also supplied the sarongs), Linda Ostrove, Annamarie Ringheim and Michael Scoggins
- ♥ Jim McGrath, Jim Bennett and Fud Benson, (the Reprobates) for their entertaining and very appropriate sea shanties
- ♥ Greeters, servers and poster people: Ginny Baldwin, Linda Bertrand, Drea Dumont, John Hall, Emily Johnson, Paul Johnson, Lynne Kelly and Kendra Simonds

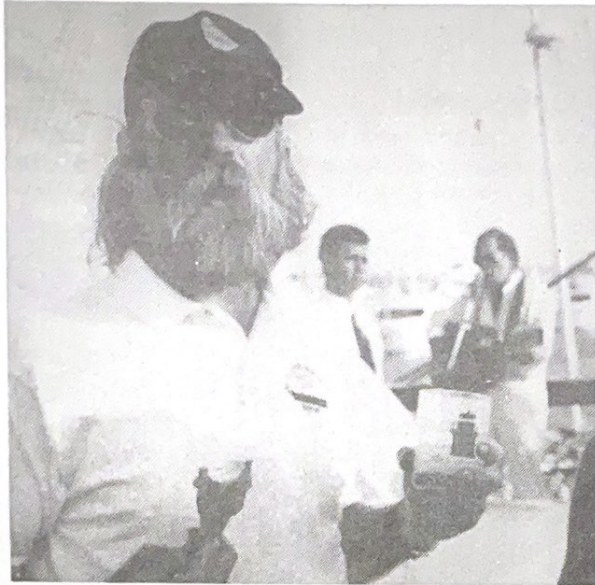
- ♥ Bar organization and service: Annie Ritterbusch, Bob Nigohosian, and Patrick Murphy, Peter and Stacy from Thax on Thames Street
- ♥ Suppliers: Chris Barlow, Bill Del Nero Laundry, Richard Carbotti, Commotion Promotions, Crest Farm, Eastern Ice, Era's Oriental Market, Paul Jacobs, P.D.Q. Printing, Toppa Paper Company and Wellington Square Liquors



THE LOVELY, saronged Lynne Kelly offers scrumptious treats (above). Making merry are Walter and Suzanne Whitley and Marcia Glassie, pictured below. (Photos courtesy of Brian Sullivan.)



MIKE MUESSEL (below) takes a break from food and drink to make some kind of a comment to photographer Brian Sullivan. (Paul Johnson and Jim McGrath are in the background.)



Upon arrival at the ship, saronged love-lies presented our guests with flower corsages and souvenir glasses to take home (like the one Mike is holding). In keeping with Polynesian tradition and our desire to reduce trash, delicious finger foods were served on paper napkins. As the evening ended, fingers were wiped on facecloths dampened with rose water (not Rose Island water, mind you). The result? Only one green trash bag of garbage was generated by 200 people! Of course, the plastic and glass bottles from the bar were recycled.

On the following weekend, BOUNTY was the guest of the Newport Yacht Club, where she was open for public tours. Between the party and the tours, we cleared nearly two thousand dollars for the restoration of the lighthouse while having the time of our lives!

The *Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation News* is published by the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, Charlotte Johnson, Editor. Non-profit postage PAID at Newport, RI 02840. This 501(c)(3) tax exempt foundation has restored the Rose Island lighthouse and is developing compatible, environmentally-sensitive programs that will enrich people's lives for many years to come in the fields of history, preservation, ecology, conservation and recreation.

Mail correspondence to: Charlotte Johnson, Editor, *RILF NEWS*, P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840. Telephone (401) 847-4454, FAX (401) 847-6775.



PAUL AND DORITHY STEDMAN are pictured above with the quilt Dorothy has made for the brass bed that will be used by members who join in the Keeper categories. Paul's interest in our lighthouse stems from the many summers he spent on Rose Island while his grandfather Jesse Orton was Keeper from 1921-1936, and then with Charlie Eldridge and George Bell until 1941, when the Coast Guard took over the light.



SHARING INFORMATION - In October, members of the Rose Island lighthouse crew explored Block Island's North light. While this is the lighthouse that doesn't have to be moved, it still needs a lot of interior work.

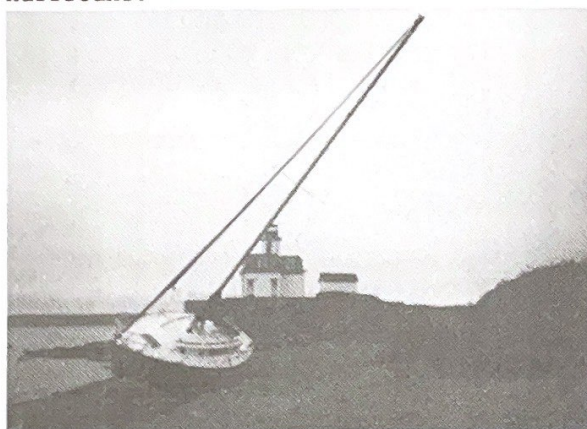
Pam Gasner, Tracey Dillon and Gil Plumb are the three folks in the middle of the front row who are raising funds to save this gem and have it open to the public. They are flanked by Ron Ackman (left) and Kay Parent-Oriel (right) and backed by Chris Barlow, Jon Powers, Rick Oriel, Joe Davis and Charlotte Johnson. The large granite pieces scattered around are part of a brick-and-stone apron that surrounded the lighthouse's foundation that will be rebuilt.



AND THEN
ALONG CAME
HURRICANE BOB



WAVES WERE STILL CRASHING AT FORT ADAMS on August 19, when the eye of Hurricane Bob passed over head and we took the opportunity to see if the lighthouse was still standing--it was. While that may not be clear in the photo above, it is in Bob Zeigler's photo below, which also shows the sloop FREE ENTERPRISE on the beach. Besides the loss of our wheelbarrow and some minor damage to our pier and the pump house roof, the lighthouse had carried herself quite nicely through one more hurricane.



Shown (left to right) are Skip Davis, Chris Barlow and Bob Zeigler with Bill Crane on the truck.



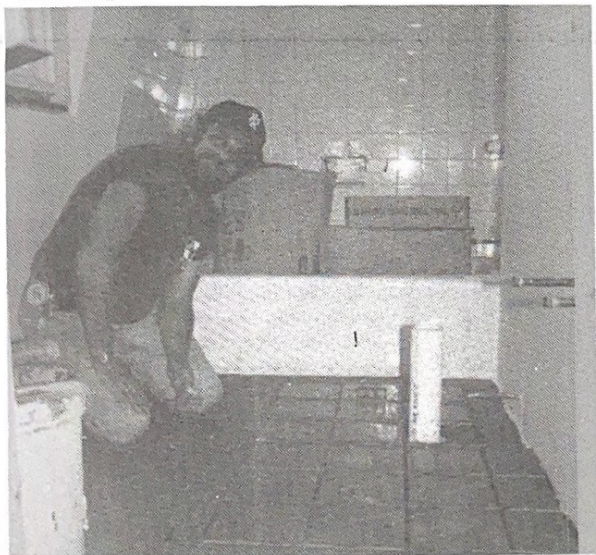
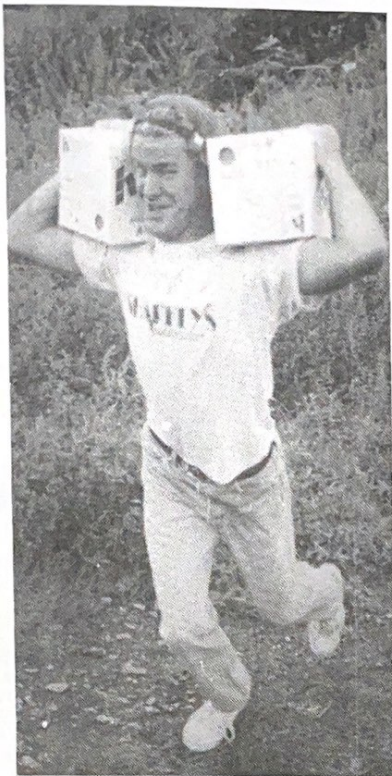
THE SAGA OF THE TILES

THE EFFICIENCY OF OUR IN-FLOOR HEATING will be increased by the ceramic floor tiles Patty Corgan arranged to have installed throughout the second floor keeper's quarters. Owner of Designs Unlimited in Middletown, Patty not only made contact with American Olean, who provided the tiles below cost, she also convinced Nick Cooper into volunteering to lay them with his godson Steve Tsonos.

It all began last spring with a visit to the lighthouse when Patty Corgan and Curt Bunting made the measurements. As you can see, all the plastering still had to be done. Thus, it was not until September that Chris Barlow picked up 3 tons of tiles and mortar and brought them to Fort Adams to be loaded onto the launch.



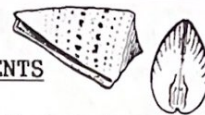
Once the shipment was on the dock at Rose Island, everyone developed their own style for carrying small loads up to the lighthouse. Skip Davis (right) found that making 30 trips carrying two boxes of tiles, each weighing 55 pounds gave him enough exercise to allow him to skip his Athletic Club appointment that day!



Next came the tile master, Nick Cooper (above) and his helper, Steve. Both were such dedicated volunteers, they camped out for the night so they could get an early start the next morning and put in a second full day's work to finish the job, and it looks just great! Bob wasted no time in setting up his workbench to install the window trim, and if it weren't for these photos, who else would guess how much hard work really went into that floor?



SEPTEMBER EVENTS



September was jam-packed with events. Once again, the clambake was nearly sold out to members before it was advertised to the public and we had a wonderful time which added about \$3,000 to the building fund. Special thanks go to our many volunteers and suppliers, including:

Volunteers: Larry Anderson, Barbara Carroll, Chris Barlow, Skip Davis, Joe Davis, Chris & Carey de Bethune, Alice Duce, Frances Hester, Dave Walker, Christine Montanaro, Phil Mosher, Laurie Shaw and all those kind folks who spontaneously pitched in when they saw the need.

Suppliers: Ron Fatulli of Aquidneck Lobster Company for his continued support; Chris Barlow, for being our bakemaster and supplying all the paper products and odds 'n ends; Blue Gold Sea Farm for the best mussels ever; Jim Sheppard of the Chart House for the veggie plates, dips and their fabulous brown bread; Michael Jenkins of the Clarke Cooke House for the pasta salad; Walter Nickerson from Crest Farm for the traditional watermelon dessert; Eastern Ice Company for guess what?; John & Mary Philcox of LeBistro and Phil Larson of the Mooring for butter, butter, more butter and cheeses; Sophia Pendergast of the Walnut Street Market for the huge garden salad; and Kevin Callahan of the White Horse Tavern for eight bags of bread and butter pats.

We're also grateful to Jeannie of Sakonnet Vineyards for supplying cases and cases of their delicious local wines; to Bucci's Liquor, Fifth Ward Liquor, Island Liquors, Joe's Package Store and Wellington Square Liquor for soda and the many gallons of wine in which the mussels were cooked. (Oops! Now you know one of the secrets of Barlow's mussels!)

Launch Services: Ron Ackman and Oldport Marine for ferrying people out from Fort Adams on the Newport side and Billy Munger and Conanicut Marine for transportation from the Jamestown side.

Between the clambake and the next day's open house, a total of 300 people were able to visit the lighthouse!



Frances Hester, Deborah McQuade, David Walker and son are about to offer a toast (above) while others keep toasty warm by the roaring bon fire (below) as the sun goes down at the 1991 annual Rose Island lighthouse clambake.



THE SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING was held at Harbour Court, headquarters of the New York Yacht Club, on September 29, 1991. It marked a major turning point in the history of the Foundation. Once focused entirely on building restoration, President Curt Bunting announced now the foundation was ready to move into "people" programs. Receiving members' approval to modify the bylaws to allow the foundation to hire an executive director, Mr. Bunting announced Charlotte Johnson's appointment to that position.

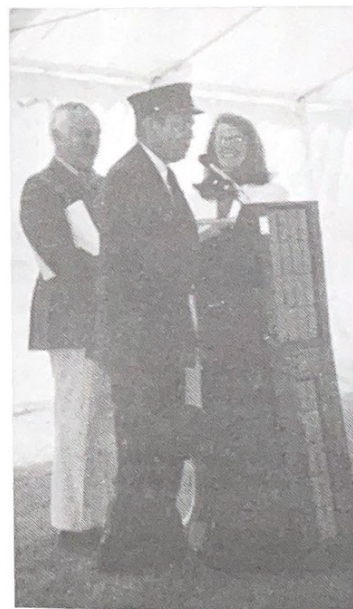
In addition, the following new members were elected and welcomed to the Board of Directors: Christine Montanaro, Edward Stone and Bob Zeigler. They replace retiring members Dana Magee and Hugh Whittle, plus Charlotte Johnson, who will retire as Secretary and become an *ex-officio* member of the board.

Speical Awards: As a reminder of how far we've come together, exquisite prints by master photographer/printer Richard (Chip) Benson showing the dilapidated, "before" version of the lighthouse in 1982 were presented to the following organizations:

- * The Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust for its generous support amounting to \$92,000 over the last four years.
- * Newport Collaborative Architects, for providing *pro bono* architectural services since 1985.
- * Zeigler Restorations for continuous, hands-on devotion to the lighthouse restoration effort since 1987.

The President's Report included a brief building report with additional kudos to many hard working volunteers and generous suppliers. He also kicked off the fund-raising campaign with a capital goal of \$175,000, of which \$25,000 had already been received from the Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust. He said an additional \$44,500 was needed for operations and maintenance, including the costs of new educational programs.

The Foundation was pleased and honored to have Governor Bruce Sundlun as its keynote speaker. At the end of his remarks, Sundlun made a surprise presentation to Curt Bunting of a Lighthouse Service Keeper's cap. (Right) Curt is cracking a joke at the podium with Governor Sundlun and Charlotte Johnson looking on.



With high praise for the Foundation's preservation efforts, Governor Sundlun said he wasn't sure when money would become available to purchase the rest of Rose Island. He advised the City of Newport to aggressively pursue ways to use the Zoning Enabling Act to preserve Rose Island's open space and natural resources, calling it "one of Narragansett Bay's precious landmarks."



From left to right, Bill Cooper, Michael Semenza, Ed Stone, Ginny Baldwin and Jean Gorham enjoy tea after the meeting.



NEWPORT ANTIQUE DEALERS Jill Oltz and Web Wilson made a special trip to the lighthouse to survey the museum's furnishings needs. They are pictured above in the Oldport launch with Kelley and Joe Davis. Jill has compiled our "wish list" and circulated it amongst dealers and friends. The response has been very good. (More on this in our next newsletter when you'll get a pictorial tour of the lighthouse and also meet our new keepers!)

----- Tear off here -----

PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILING LABEL FOR MEMBERSHIP STATUS--IF IT SAYS -92, YOU'RE OK TIL JUNE.
IF YOU HAVE NOT CONTRIBUTED THIS YEAR, WON'T YOU PLEASE CONSIDER DOING SO NOW?

DUES for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1992 are as follows (please mark one):

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 Inspector | *Initiation for "Keeper" membership categories is a night for two at the lighthouse. Telephone 847-4454 for availability. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100 Superintendent | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 250 Assistant Keeper* | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 500 Associate Keeper* | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Business | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 Head Keeper* | |

• I/we would like to volunteer to help, or wish to donate items for the museum as follows:

• My/our dues as marked above are enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

• My/our additional 1991 contribution is enclosed in the amount of \$ _____

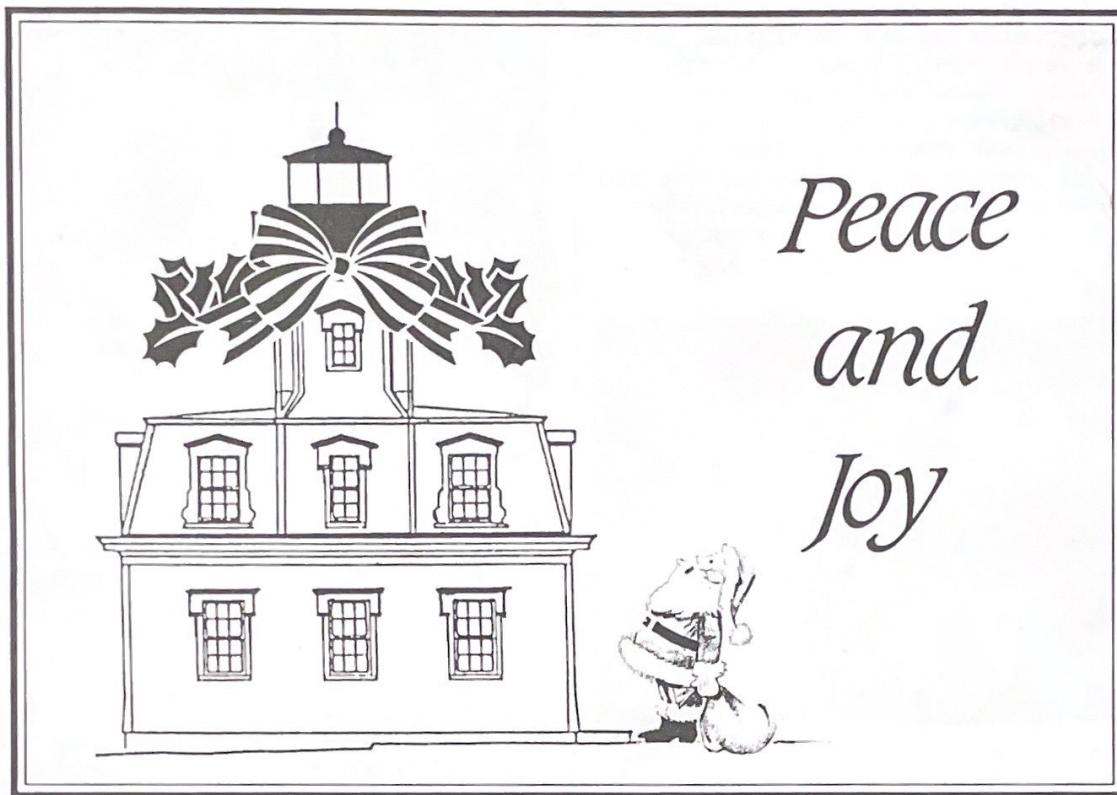
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please provide the following information, if different from mailing label on opposite side:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____
Street City State Zip

Please Note: Membership dues and contributions paid to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation are deductible within legal limits for U.S. Income Tax purposes. Please mail this form with your payment to: RILF, P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840 - THANK YOU!



JOIN US FROM 11:00 AM-2:00 PM
FOR OUR ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S DAY
POT-LUCK PICNIC ON ROSE ISLAND!

ROSE ISLAND
LIGHTHOUSE
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